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Key to Success

A man would do nothing if he waited until he could do it so well that no one could find fault. ~John Henry Newman

Failure – something which everyone encounters. No one was born to succeed in life. Behind every successful person, lie thousands of failures which they had overcome. It is through these failures, we will learn to become more resilient towards the challenges faced in future. Since another commonly known name for failure is 'The Key to Success', I feel that encountering setbacks are often essential tools for the great journey to success. This is why I believe that determination is the crucial factor to success.

Personally, I feel that in order to succeed, we have to take on these challenges bravely and overcome all the obstacles. The essential factor is the attitude we possess towards the challenges faced. It is never easy and we would require courage and definitely, determination, to get back on our feet again after every fall. At times, certain failures that we encounter leave deep impressions in our minds as we had an unforgettable experience, trying to get back on our feet. We often learn a painful lesson after a failure as a result of all the hard work we had put in to overcome the difficulties. These experiences serve as a motivation for us to strive and work harder to reach our goal.

Once, I was complacent thinking that I was fully prepared for the examinations. I began to watch movies the night before the exam. As a result, I ended up sleeping very late that night and this caused me to be lethargic the next morning. During the examination, I found it really hard to concentrate and my mind went blank. All the information that I had revised for the exam was gone. I could not come up with the answer. This was the first time which I had failed terribly for my

examination. I learnt from this incident as it was a constant reminder to me not to be complacent. No matter how prepared we are, we should still brace ourselves for a greater challenge. From my personal experience, I see failures as motivation for us not to make the same mistake and this drives us closer to success.

As important as it is to keep challenging ourselves to reach our very best, there is also another vital factor that we should keep in mind. *“Striving for excellence motivates you; striving for perfection is demoralizing”* ~ Harriet Braiker. I would set my goals at a suitable level. It may be really tiring to keep striving for a goal that is out of reach. This will dampen my fighting spirit. I personally feel that understanding myself and knowing my limits is important. This way, I can then set a reasonable goal for myself.

My motto is to never stop challenging myself. This is the way to improve. Determination is the key to success. Never stop believing and I hope to be able to succeed one day.

“Believe that life is worth living and your belief will help create the fact.” ~ William James

(467 words)